Kennedy Probe Quietly Sought

assassination

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BY EARL GOLZ

The U.S. Justice Department has asked an assistant U.S. attorney here to quietly examine any new information on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, The Dallas News has learned.

Assistant U.S. Atty. Kenneth Mighell said he was told to forward to Washington what he considers "new evidence" in the case.

So far, however, Mighell said he has not forwarded anything to Washington because he has seen "not a thing new" since he began receiving information from citizens about two months ago.

This includes films of the assassination shot Nov. 22, 1963, by Abraham Zapruder and others, which are scheduled to be shown in part by the American Broadcasting Co.'s television affiliates shortly after midnight Thursday.

ROBERT GRODEN, narrator of the ABC film version, said in Dallas earlier this week that it proves "there is no question that at least one shot came from in front of Kennedy."

Groden asserts "this alone negates the conclusion of the Warren Commission that only Lee Harvey Oswald was shooting at the president's car."

Mighell said he asked the Justice Department whether he should start collecting any new information about the assassination after he learned about a letter U.S. Sen. John Tower

Film will not be cut, Page 1D

of Texas had received from then Assistant U.S. Atty. Gen. Henry Peterson, head of the Justice Department's criminal division.

Mighell said a copy of the letter was in the possession of Lu Staples, who has conducted several radio talk shows about the assassination.

Staples, who was at a Groden press conference here this week, became infuriated when Mighell refused to come to the Adolphus Hotel to view the Groden film version. He indicated Mighell's role was merely to "pacify" conspiracy theorists interested in the assassination.

"I've personally seen the Zapruder film," Mighell said, "when we had it before Life magazine got it. So what is he going to show me that's new? If he is going to show me a doctored film, that isn't evidence . . .

"SOMEBODY COULD take those films and make anything they wanted out of them. And he (Groden) has doctored them up with his time framing, (so) how do we know he didn't doctor them up by putting a figure (second gunman) in the background?"

The federal attorney asked whether "they honestly expect us to start digging up more witnesses and find phantom snipers," even if everyone agreed the films show "a guy sitting up there that may have had a rifle and the bullet may have come from that direction."

Mighell also asked how Groden explains "a front entry bullet tearing off the front of the head. An entry wound is a very small, almost obscure wound. It's the exit wound that is gaping."

The U.S. attorney's office so far has received "a list of a bunch of witnesses who will testify," some magazine articles and a book, Mighell said.

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All came from Bernard Fensterwald Jr., Washington attorney for key Watergate figure James W. McCord Jr. and founder of the privately financed Committe to Investigate Assassinations.

MIGHELL SAID he was "in the process of just showing Fensterwald the courtesy of reading what he sent me. And when I'm all through, if I'm unable to find in any of this stuff new evidence," nothing will be forwarded to the Justice Department in Washington.

He added that he is "looking for evidence, not interpretation of evidence that's already been ruled on . . . If there is a federal crime involved somewhere then we will investigate it. But the basic problem we have always had with the Kennedy assassination is there is no federal crime in-